

**Testimony On Behalf Of The  
Connecticut Regional Office of the  
Anti-Defamation League**

**IN SUPPORT OF  
PROPOSED HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1  
RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND REGRET OF THE CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE HISTORY OF WRONGS INFLICTED ON BLACK  
CITIZENS BY MEANS OF SLAVERY, EXPLOITATION AND LEGALIZED RACIAL  
SEGREGATION, AND CALLING ON ALL CITIZENS TO TAKE PART IN ACTS OF RACIAL  
RECONCILIATION**

**March 23, 2009**

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) was founded in 1913 with a mandate to fight the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment for all. Today the ADL is one of the country's leading civil rights and human services organizations. The Connecticut Regional Office of ADL is based in Hamden and serves the entire state of Connecticut.

We submit this testimony today to express our support of Proposed House Joint Resolution No. 1, Resolution Expressing the Profound Regret of the Connecticut General Assembly for the History of Wrongs Inflicted on Black Citizens by Means of Slavery, Exploitation and Legalized Racial Segregation, and Calling on All Citizens to Take Part in Acts of Racial Reconciliation.

Since its inception 96 years ago, the Anti-Defamation League has fought all forms of discrimination and has supported efforts to eliminate segregation and achieve the goal of an integrated society. The state of Connecticut has made great strides in the area of race and racial reconciliation, with comprehensive and vigorous statutes that provide significant protection from racially-motivated discrimination and hate, as well as meaningful avenues for responding to such discrimination and hatred. The state is committed to equality, fairness and the improvement of conditions for all of its residents.

In ADL's efforts to fight hate, build hope and safeguard liberty, we combat racism, bigotry, and hate in all its forms, responding to hate crimes, advocating on behalf of victims of discrimination, lobbying for legislation promoting equality and non-discrimination, and through anti-bias and diversity educational programming. In our experience, unfortunately, despite the significant advancements that have been made in Connecticut and around the country, bias, inequality and feelings of ill will remain at all levels of society. We must collectively commit ourselves to addressing issues of race and racism that persist in our communities. An apology for the wrongs of history and a publicly stated commitment to reconciliation will underscore the progress that has been made, and encourage the people of Connecticut to continue to move forward, improving relations and conditions, and striving for equality and justice in the state.

We urge you to support Proposed House Joint Resolution No. 1, which would send a clear message that the legislature and state of Connecticut are dedicated to the resolution of race-related issues.